

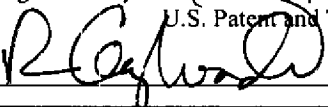
P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Joseph AFERZON	Confirmation No.:	7576
Serial No.:	10/519,423	Examiner:	James L Swiger III
Filed:	December 23, 2004	Group Art Unit:	3775
Docket No.:	1292.1236101	Customer No.:	33469
Title:	SPINAL SUPPORT COUPLING DEVICE		

AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 4th day of January 2010.	
By 	Name: Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed October 2, 2009, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending January 2, 2010. Because January 2, 2010 is a Saturday, and this paper is being filed on the next succeeding business day, therefore this paper is filed within the set period for response such that no extension of time is necessary.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.